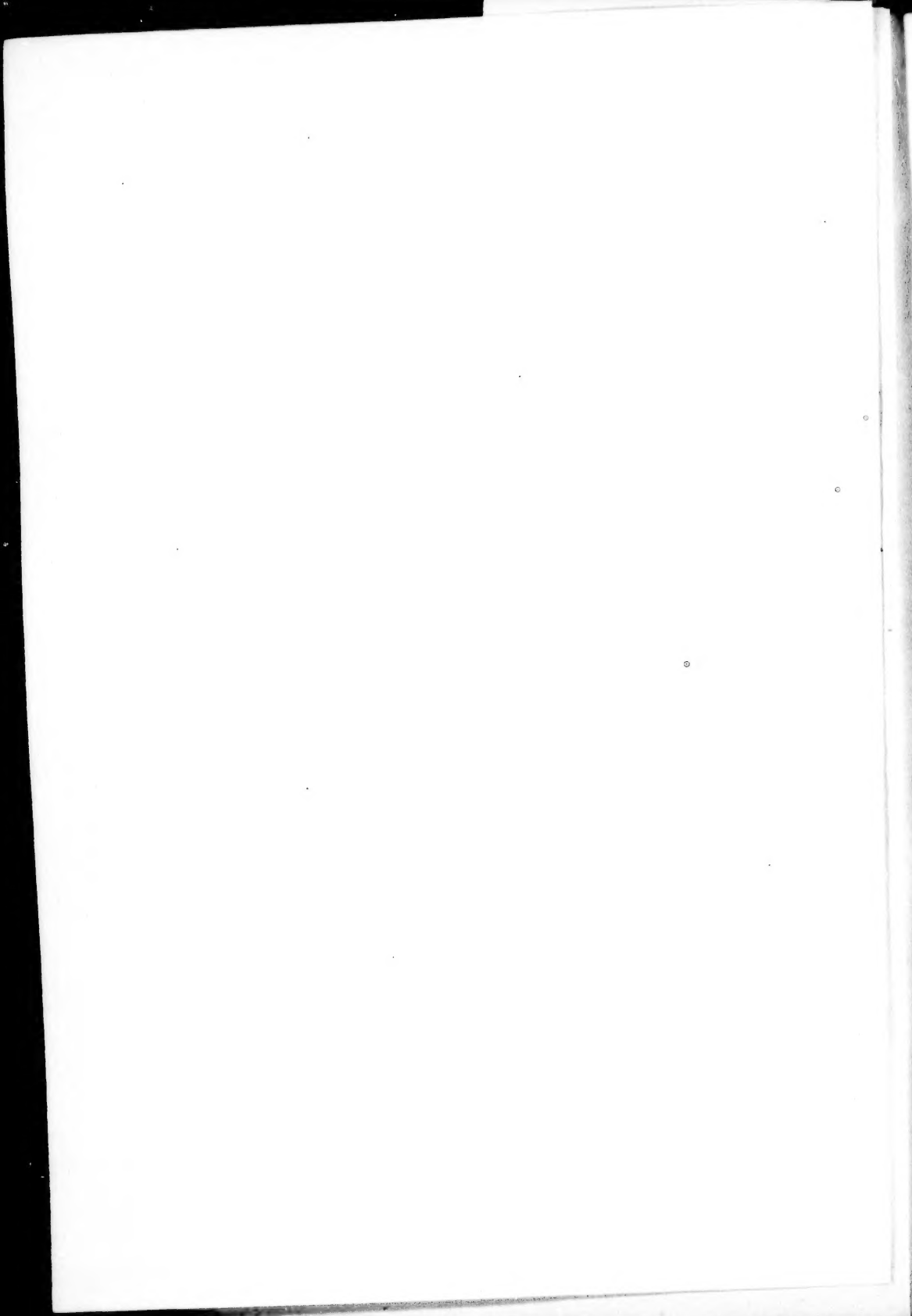




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bles and sheds, in which cattle are kept, are built of rock, and cleaned regularly every morning and evening, and the cattle well littered with straw, or something else provided for the purpose; so that one could scarcely tell, only for seeing the cattle, but that he was in a well kept livery stable. They are fed as regularly as the farmer himself; not much at a time, but often, four or five times a day. The first thing in the morning is to feed the cattle, and frequently the last thing at night.

On what is called a well stocked farm, one-fourth, or a fraction over, are cows; one-fourth one year old; one-fourth two years old; and one-fourth three years; omitting to count calves till a year old. A farmer therefore who can keep ten cows, has ten head of cattle to dispose of every year. And if he is able to feed them the third winter, they will bring the highest price. Suppose he feeds ten, each weighing forty stone, a fair average weight for cattle three years old; and dispose of the same at five shillings per stone, which is about the average price, the amount of cash he would receive for the whole would be £100 sterling, which, to say nothing of what is made from the cows, would pay the rent of a snug little farm.

We have little room to speak of Sheep. Those who go extensively into this branch of business, keep them on the hills during summer, where their principal food is the bloom of the heath, and bring them to the plains during winter. The business is profitable were it not that in winter, great numbers are lost in the snow.

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## ART. V.—HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FUR TRADE.

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BY J. LOUGHBOROUGH, ESQ., OF MISSOURI.

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### CHAPTER I.

Origin of the Fur Trade—Discovery of Canada—Cartier—DeMorts—Champlain—Traffic with the Indians commenced—Origin and character of the *Courier de Bois*—Facility of forming savage habits—Immorality of the *Courier's de Bois*—The license system—Discovery of Hudson's Bay—Grosseliez—Charter of Bay Company—Deficiency of organization—Their slow progress—Voyages of Knight, Barlow, Middleton, and Moore and Smith—Wars with French traders—Treaty of 1763—Cession of Canada to the English—Journey of Carver—The Yazoo Indian's trip—Journeys of Hearne—Incidents illustrating Indian life and character—Return of Hearne.

It is a singular and striking manifestation of the wisdom of Providence, in educing good out of evil, and rendering the worst passions of human nature subservient to the ends of virtue, that the fur trade, which had its origin in vanity and avarice, has, nevertheless, essentially contributed in many ways, to the lasting welfare of mankind.

From the earliest period, the passion for the finer furs, as ornaments, has existed among nations of northern origin, as that for jewels and precious stones has characterized those of southern regions. Time, conquest, and emigration, have changed the relative positions of people, but not their tastes; and now we see a thousand characteristics singularly out of harmony with the localities in which they are found. It is thus that we see the taste for furs, as articles of dress and ornament, transplanted by the Turks and Tartars into southern Asia and China. The simple fact that certain animals wear a skin covered with soft and rich fur, with which princes and nobles love to be decorated, and that there have been men so devoted to the love of lucre as to undertake the most hazardous voyages and journeys, and encounter the most imminent dangers to profit by this passion of the great, has contributed in an inconceivable degree to the advancement of science, the spread of true religion, the improvement of commerce, and the progress of civilization. The founders of the fur trade, (without certainly being impelled by such motives,) have brought to the knowledge of the world boundless deserts, and almost impenetrable forests; and an accurate account of the manners, customs and habits of millions of human beings previously unknown to the civilized world. By introducing a knowledge of the capabilities and resources of these wild regions, a boundless field for an incalculable amount of commerce has been opened up. By informing the philanthropic and the pious of the true situation of vast masses of benighted and suffering fellow creatures, they have induced thousands of zealous and pure minded missionaries to carry the true religion of the cross into regions destitute alike of earthly comfort, and of future well founded hope. By giving the assurance that the cultivators of science might follow their footsteps in safety and security, they have contributed to introduce an inestimable amount of useful knowledge in every department of natural science. Astronomy has been greatly advanced; geography extended, until at this time scarce a spot upon the globe remains unexplored; geology, that infallible guide to the physical history of the past, and the agricultural success of the present, has found in these wild regions, some of her most valuable treasures; botany, zoology and ornithology, have been enriched with vast discoveries; and above all, and more than all, the world now fully understands to what ends, and by what means, its efforts must be directed in furtherance of the great mission of civilization. It may be true that population would, in the course of time, have spread over all these regions; but its progress is naturally slow—men reluctantly leave the confines of civilization, without some assurance of the character of new lands, and centuries might have elapsed before the surge of population would have swelled to the shores of the Pacific. In that period, how much would have been lost of inestimable value to the comfort, the happiness and the intellectual advancement of mankind! And how deeply is it to be deplored, that so many signal benefits, should have been purchased by the sacrifice of the lives, the morals, and the health of thousands of harmless beings, for whose protection all the safe-guards of law, and all the military force of several governments proved wholly unavailing. But the best grand results, and the most benefi-

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cent designs of Providence, are always more or less polluted by the evil passions of mankind, and we have reason to be fervently thankful, that in spite of these evil passions, the benefits resulting from the fur trade, have far overbalanced its injuries.

Francis the First of France, a high-minded, chivalrous and ambitious monarch, eager to cope upon equal terms with his illustrious rival, Charles the Fifth, fitted out several expeditions for maritime discovery. The second of these great voyages was entrusted to the command of Jacques Cartier, who was selected by the Sieur de Millerrays, Vice Admiral of France. The event justified the choice; for Cartier proved himself one of the most intelligent, courageous and prudent commanders of an age fruitful in heroic spirits. He sailed from St. Malo in 1534, with two ships. He penetrated for the first time into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The advanced season, however, compelled him to return to France. Meeting there with a flattering reception, he resolved again to embark and prosecute his discoveries up the river St. Lawrence into the interior of the continent. His squadron consisted of three ships. They weighed anchor in May, 1535, and steered for New Foundland. On his former voyage he had induced two of the natives to return with him to France. As soon as he entered the mouth of the river, these natives informed him that it ran through a great Continent with large lakes. He proceeded up the river as high as the point where the city of Montreal now stands, where he found a large Indian town, built of logs and bark, and surrounded by breast works. After remaining some time, he again sailed for France.\*

Like his illustrious predecessor, Columbus, he received ingratitude instead of reward; but the authors of it were punished by a providential failure of several successive expeditions towards the rich land he said he had discovered. Cartier himself, was subsequently lost in a voyage undertaken upon his own account. At length, after a number of abortive attempts at discovery, and colonization, *DeMonts*, a gentleman of Santoigne, about the end of the sixteenth century, fitted out an expedition for *New France*, as all northern America was then called. *DeMonts* himself, was finally tempted into piracy, but Champlain, his second in command, proved true to his trust. He founded and fortified a town on the present site of Quebec, reduced the neighboring country to cultivation, and headed a number of expeditions into various portions of the interior. It is no part of our object to enter upon the details of these French geographical discoveries—deeply interesting as they are—save in so far as they are incidentally connected with the rise and progress of the fur trade.

This first permanent settlement of the French in Canada, was the nucleus around which, in the course of time, a multitude of other small colonies were collected. Finding a large demand in Europe for the finer furs, and that the country abounded in animals bearing them, they immediately opened a traffic with the natives, giving to

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\*Cartier made a third voyage, in which he fancied he had discovered gold and diamonds. His collections, however, were only limpid quartz and golden yellow mica, mistaken in that ignorant age for gold and diamonds.

them trinkets, and coarse and cheap articles of clothing and cutlery, in exchange. At first, when the wild animals were abundant, and the Indians numerous and powerful, the white traders contented themselves with remaining in their towns, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and purchasing the skins brought to them by the red men. As the supply diminished, and as the Indian tribes became thinned, corrupted and weakened by the destructive proximity of civilization, the traders found it their interest to penetrate the recesses of the wilderness and barter with the hunter within his own territories. The individuals who undertook this task, were a class of hardy adventurers, who joined the savages in their villages, married wives among them, adopted with wonderful facility their habits and customs; and engaged with them in their hunting excursions, sharing the proceeds. Their distant inland expeditions (or voyages, as they called them,) frequently occupied as much as twelve or eighteen months. It is astonishing how much easier it is for the most civilized being to descend into barbarism, than for the most intellectual savage to rise into the civilized state. In the first case, twelve months uninterrupted association with savages, almost uniformly effects the result; whilst we believe there is no example in history of a grown savage having been converted into a civilized being. Generations of contact alone can accomplish it. On this point we have read much of conjecture and speculation. To our mind the reason is clear and satisfactory. Civilization is the creation of the reason, and implies a conquest over the passions and the appetites; barbarism consists in the almost undisturbed reign of the latter. The one state requires a constant and steady effort of mind, the other requires none. The one is a rational condition—the other an impulsive one. The one is a condition of necessary restraint; the other of entire freedom. We confess it is easier to conceive than to express the distinction, but the two conditions of the mind and feelings we have experienced.

These daring men had to encounter every form of toil, hardship, and danger. They had to associate with savages, selfish, brutal and treacherous, intellectually; and depraved as they were morally, even their inferiors—beings with whom they could feel no sympathy, towards whom their only relation was a mutual struggle to murder, to cheat, and to plunder. Under these circumstances, free from all the restraints of law and of public opinion, the *Courier des Bois*, as they were called, rapidly degenerated into intelligent and cunning beasts of prey; combining the foresight, steady perseverance, and the powers of combination of the white, with the rapacious, unscrupulous and unprincipled ferocity of the Indian. So fatal was their example to the morality of the natives, and so serious an impediment did their course of conduct become to the pious and zealous efforts of the missionaries to infuse into the Indians the pure principles of the gospel, that at their urgent solicitation an ordinance was published prohibiting all persons whatsoever from entering the Indian territories without a license, and making the continuance of the license depend upon their conduct.\* In the state of society then existing this remedy was

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\*Sir Alex. Mackenzie, page 1 to 3.

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of course nearly nugatory. Even at the present time, a similar system more strictly guarded, is found almost impracticable to enforce.

In the year 1708, Henry Hudson re-discovered the Strait connecting the great Bay, which bears his name, to the Atlantic. Through this Strait he entered the Bay, where his crew mutinied, bound him, and put him with his adherents, the sick and the wounded, into a shallop and then made sail. He was never heard of more.

This voyage of Hudson was followed by a number of others, the leading objects of which were to penetrate into the Pacific through some of the inlets of this Bay, or to discover a north-west passage into that ocean. The last of these voyages, previous to 1668, were those of Fox and James; and their crews disseminated on their return such glowing accounts of the abundance of rich furs, that they excited the interest of Grosseliers, an enterprising individual, who undertook a voyage to survey the country, and laid before the French government a scheme for a settlement. The Minister rejected the scheme as visionary; but Grosseliez having obtained an introduction to Prince Rupert, then in Paris, obtained through his interest with the English King, a vessel which sailed in 1668, and penetrated to the top of James' Bay. Here they erected Fort Charles on Rupert river. In the succeeding year, Prince Rupert, with seventeen others, were incorporated into a company. To this company Charles the Second gave and granted in fee, as lords of the soil, all the territories on the coasts and confines of all the seas, lakes, and rivers, within Hudson's Straits, not actually in the occupancy of any other prince or state, together with the sole and exclusive right of trading with all the inhabitants thereof. The leading motive of the King, was to further the efforts for the discovery of the northwest passage, and the duty of aiding and assisting in these efforts, was expressed as a condition in this charter.\*

This company accordingly commenced operations, but their organization was so deficient, that it made but slow progress in its attempts to rival the French in Canada. Its commandants and clerks had all fixed salaries, were without a prospect of future promotion, and were consequently without any motive to stimulate them, beyond the performance of their specified duties. The hands or voyageurs, were usually Orkney men, or men from some other of the Scottish Isles, whose inflexible dispositions and fixed habits, illy adapted them to an intercourse with a new and savage race of people. Accordingly we find that in 1749, nearly eighty years after, the granting of their charter—although at that period the animals were abundant—an attempt was made to deprive them of their charter, on the ground of *non user*: and the consequent investigation demonstrated that they had accomplished very little. They possessed at that period only four small and badly constructed forts, manned by one hundred and twenty men. They only realized a nett profit of about \$25,000 per annum. At the same period the furs imported into Rochelle, from Canada, yielded to the French traders a nett profit of about \$100,000.†

\* Macpherson's Annals of Commerce, v. 2, p. 555. See also the Charter.

† Report of Committee of the Commons, reprinted in 1803, and Anderson's History of Commerce, v. 3, p. 237.

Previous to the peace of 1763, the only efforts made by the company to fulfil the condition of their charter, respecting the northwest passage, were the voyages of Knight and Barlow, in 1719; of Middleton in 1742, and of Moore and Smith in 1746. The vessels of the first were never heard of; those of the second returned without accomplishing anything of note, and the last expedition was, if possible, of less consequence still.

By the treaty of Ryswick, in 1697, it was provided that the Hudson's Bay territories should belong to France; but if the exact line was drawn as provided for in the treaty, it was never fairly understood or recognized by the Canadian French. Consequently, from this period up to the treaty of Utrecht, in 1714, a state of quasi war existed between the French traders and the Bay Company; and the latter were several times dislodged by the former; and as the latter treaty provided for commissioners, whose action was not heeded, this war continued until 1765. Fort Churchill was erected in 1733, in defiance of treaty—strongly fortified and mounted with 40 pieces of cannon; but it was, nevertheless, taken by LaPeyrouse.\*

By the terms of the treaty of 1763, Canada, together with all the other dominions of the King of France on the continent, east of the Mississippi river, except only the narrow strip between that river and the Iberville, and Lakes Maurapas and Pontchartrain, were ceded to Great Britain. This treaty was signed at Paris. The region extending southwest from Hudson's Bay to the great Lakes, and the heads of the Mississippi, had long been frequented by the traders from Canada, and had been partially surveyed by French officers and missionaries. This region was also visited, in 1766, by Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut. The object of Carver was to ascertain the breadth of the continent, about the 46th parallel, induce the government to establish a post somewhere west of the Mississippi, and thus facilitate the discovery of a northwest passage. In his journal is to be found the *first mention of the Oregon river, by any English trader or traveler*. He derived his account of it from the Indians. Pecuniary embarrassments prevented the prosecution of his scheme.

One of the strangest adventures which has been preserved to us of that period, is recorded by the French traveler, Lepage Dupratz. A native of the Yazoo country, named Monchactabe, having taken a roving fit into his head, deliberately set out, followed the Missouri river to its head, crossed the mountain barrier, and pursued his course down the Columbia a considerable distance. Here he was checked by the existence of a war between the tribe with which he found himself, and another much lower down. He stated that he was there informed that the stream which he had descended emptied into a great water, where ships had been seen, navigated by white men with beards. All the circumstances related by him correspond so well with facts since discovered, that there is little room for doubt, of the truth of this Indian's story, of his extraordinary adventures. He was absent on this expedition upwards of five years.†

\*Cox's Narrative.

†This account is to be found in the Abbe de Maserier's Memoirs Sur la Louisiana.

The first actual discovery of a river emptying into the Arctic Sea, was made by Mr. Samuel Hearne, one of the agents of the Bay Company. The plain, simple narrative of his journeys, as written out by himself, is one of intense interest. The difficulties and dangers of such a journey in these high latitudes, are inconceivable to those who have not read with attention many accounts of them. The scheme was set on foot professedly for the purpose of northern discovery, to redeem the Bay Company from the reproach of having entirely neglected to fulfil the conditions of their charter; but the real purpose was to ascertain whether the Indian tales relative to rich mines of copper in the north, were true. Hearne made, between 1769 and 1772, three journeys from Prince of Wales Fort, on Hudson's Bay, near the 60th parallel. In his second journey he went as far as White Snow Lake, in 64 deg. Here the accidental destruction of his quadrant compelled him to return. Some idea may be formed of the privations endured in this journey, from the following extract:

"To record," says Hearne, "in detail, each day's fare since the commencement of this journey, would be little more than a dull repetition of the same occurrences. A sufficient idea of it may be given in a few words, by observing that it may justly be said to have been either all feasting or all fasting. Sometimes we had too much, seldom just enough, frequently too little, and often none at all. It will be only necessary to say that we fasted many times two whole days and nights, twice upwards of three days, and once, while at Shenanee, near seven days, during which we tasted not a mouthful of anything except a few cranberries, water, scraps of old leather, and burnt bones."

On these occasions, Hearne often saw the Indians examine their wardrobe, which consisted chiefly of skin clothing, considering what part could best be spared, when sometimes a piece of half rotten deer skin, and at others a pair of old shoes, would be sacrificed to alleviate extreme hunger.

On his return he met Matonabee, an intelligent chief, who had advised the journey. The Indian's notion as to the real cause of Hearne's failure, is amusing and characteristic enough. "In an expedition of this kind," said he, "where all the men are so heavily laden that they can neither hunt nor travel to any considerable distance, in case they meet with success in hunting, who is to carry the meat? Women were made for labor; one of them can carry or haul as much as two men can do. They also pitch our tents, make and mend our clothing, keep us warm at night, and, in fact, there is no such thing as traveling any considerable distance, or for any length of time, in this country, without them; and yet, though they do every thing, they are maintained at a trifling expense; for, as they always act the cook, the very licking of their fingers in scarce times, is sufficient for their subsistence."\*

On his third journey, Matonabee accompanied him with seven of his wives. On the 2d of March, they arrived at the Doobaunt Whoie

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\*Hearne's Journey, page 55.

river, where they found a large encampment of northern Indians. They found a plentiful subsistence by catching deer in a pound. Their method of accomplishing this, is to find a frequented deer path, and enclose with interwoven trees and brushwood, a space near a mile in circumference. The entrance of this circle is the size of a common farm gate, and the inside is crowded with thickets of brush, between which are set snares of well twisted thongs. On each side of the entrance, a fence of limbs and brush is started and run out, spreading apart as they proceed, to the distance of one, two or three miles, like the wings of a partridge net.\* Between these rows run the paths commonly used by the deer. When every thing is prepared the Indians take their station on an eminence, commanding a view of this path, and the instant any deer are descried in the right position, the whole village, men, women and children, steal under cover of the wood, until they attain a position in the rear. They then draw up in the form of a crescent, and advance with shouts. The deer are thus driven forward until they get into the pound. The entrance is immediately closed by the Indians, the women and children run round the outside to prevent them from leaping the barrier, and the men enter the circle with their bows and spears, and speedily despatch the victims.\*

At Cloyey the expedition was joined by nearly two hundred Indians. This occasioned a terrible misfortune to Matonabee, for two of the handsomest of his wives here eloped to rejoin their former husbands. But this was not the worst. There exists an extraordinary custom among these northern Indians by which the men are permitted to wrestle for any woman to whom they may take a fancy, and if victorious, they carry off the belle, whether she be married or single. An Indian here entered the camp from whom Matonabee had purchased one of the stoutest and therefore most valuable of his wives, and demanded to wrestle for her according to custom. As Matonabee knew he had no chance of success with an adversary so athletic, he was fain to avoid the difficulty by re-purchasing his wife. This he did with evident mortification and ill humor. It may be easily conceived how inconvenient this queer custom must be. A weak man has no chance to retain a wife at all—and even a strong one has no security against being overpowered at any time.†

At length the party arrived at Copper Mine River, and here Hearne beheld one of those terrible butcheries so characteristic of savage life. The inducement for the Indians to accompany him was the hope of waylaying and cutting off parties of the Esquimaux, with whom they had a feud. Soon the spies reported that they had seen five tents about twelve miles below. Instant preparation was made, and it was determined to steal upon their victims. It is surprising how much of unanimity, order and discipline these red devils preserve, whenever a deed of blood is to be done, although at other times they are continually wrangling. Each man first painted his target, some with a representation of the sun, others of the moon, and several with pictures of beasts and birds of prey, or of imaginary beings, which they affirmed

\*Hearne, p. 78-80.

†Hearne, p. 93.

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to be denizens of the elements, upon whose assistance they relied. They then moved with the utmost stealth towards the tents, taking care not to cross any of the hills which concealed their approach. When they arrived within two hundred yards they made their last preparation. They tied up their long black hair in a knot behind; painted their faces black and red to give them a hideous appearance; rolled up their sleeves; and some to render themselves light for running, threw off their jackets and stood armed naked to the breech cloth. At about one o'clock in the morning they rushed from their concealment with yells of fury. The unfortunate Esquimaux, men, women and children, hastened out of their tents and attempted to escape, but they were surrounded and all were murdered in cold blood. "The shrieks and groans," says Hearne, "of the poor expiring wretches, were truly distressing; and my horror was much increased at seeing a young girl about eighteen years of age killed so near me that when the first spear was struch into her side, she fell down at my feet and twisted round my legs so that it was with difficulty that I could disengage myself from her dying grasp. As two Indian men pursued this unfortunate victim, I solicited very hard for her life, but the murderers made no reply till they had struck both their spears through her body, and transfixed her to the ground. They then looked me sternly in the face and began to ridicule me by asking "If I wanted an Esquimaux wife," while they paid not the smallest regard to the shrieks and agony of the poor wretch who was turning round their spears like an eel.\*" In this journey Hearne followed the Copper Mine river to its mouth, where he observed the tides, and the relics of whales. From thence he returned by way of the Athabasca Lake. In this neighborhood they discovered by accident, a young Indian woman who had lived entirely alone in a small hut, for eight months. She had been taken prisoner by the Athabasca Indians, and attempted to escape to her own people, the Dog-ribs, but had gotten lost. She had six inches of hoop iron made into a knife, and an arrow-head for an awl. For subsistence she snared partridges and rabbits. She seemed quite contented. Hearne reached the fort in June, 1772, after an absence of near eighteen months.

## CHAPTER II.

Rivalry of English and French traders—Rise of the Northwest Company—Its efficient organization—Remotest northwest Fort—Inactivity of the Bay Company—Energy of the Northwest Company—Their ill conduct to the Indians—First visit to the Rocky Mountains—Mackenzie's first voyage—Singular Indian superstition—His discovery of the Arctic Sea, and return—His second voyage—Mountain scenery, &c.—Indians—Frazer's river—Land journey—Indians—Indian village on northwest coast—Their houses—Extraordinary religious temple—Chief's canoe—The Pacific Ocean—Fidler's trip—Frazer's voyage—Trading post west of mountains—Selkirk's Settlement—War of the rival Companies—Destruction of Selkirk's Colony—Act of Parliament—Treaty between the Companies—New charter—Re-establishment of Red River Colony—Ross Cox—Scrimmage at the Portage de la Montagne.

THE charter to the Hudson's Bay Company does not define with much precision, the boundaries of the territory granted in fee to them.

\*Hearne, p. 154.

Hence, subsequent to the treaty of 1763, the same rivalry continued to exist between the Canadian traders and the Bay Company, which had originated prior to that treaty; and whilst on the one hand the Company laid claim to an almost boundless territory, their opponents were for confining them strictly within the letter of their charter; and this was vague and indefinite.

For more than thirty years the regions north and west of Lake Superior, had been frequented by French adventurers, when some enterprising merchants of Montreal, in 1775, penetrated as far as the sources of the Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers. These individuals, however, experienced much annoyance from the employees of the Bay Company, with whom they soon found themselves unable to contend separately. Consequently, in the year 1774, they united their interests, and assumed for their association the title of the "North-west Company of Montreal." Other small associations were formed about the same time, but they were all finally absorbed by this one. Its most prominent founders were British and Canadian merchants, among whom Messrs. Rocheblave, Frobisher, Frazer, McTavish Mackenzie, and McGillivray were the most prominent. These men had all been engaged in this trade individually, or as members of lesser companies—were intimately acquainted with the character of the Indian tribes—the topography of the country, and all the best methods and means of carrying on a thriving and profitable trade.

The organization of this new company was altogether in contrast with that of their rivals. The number of the shares was at first sixteen; it was then increased to twenty, and finally to forty. A certain proportion of them were held by the *agents*, residing at Montreal, who furnished the capital; the remainder were divided among the *proprietors*, each of whom took charge of an interior trading post. The clerks were chiefly younger branches of respectable Scottish families. They entered the service as cadets or apprentices for seven years; after which they were placed upon salaries, which, with prudence, would yield a certain profit; and finally, if their conduct was good, they were received into the company as partners. Thus their ambition and their hopes were stimulated. In addition to this improvement of organization, they universally employed the descendants of the old *Courier de Bois* as *voyageurs*, or *canoe men*, in preference to all others; and encouraged them by hopes of advancement in station or pay, and of pensions in their old age. These *voyageurs* were admirably calculated by habit, education and natural disposition, for the stations in which they were employed. Passively obedient to their superiors, patient and persevering in their temper, gay, reckless, and thoughtless in their habits, capable of enduring an inconceivable amount of fatigue, and endowed with a wonderful aptitude for sliding into and adopting the characteristics of the Indians, they were of all men, the best fitted to ensure success to such an enterprise.\*

Before the formation of the North-west Company, the remotest trading establishments of the British was on the Athabasca or Elk river

\*Irving's Astoria, and Ross Cox's Narrative.

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about twelve hundred miles north-west of Lake Superior, which had been founded by Messrs. Frobisher and Pond, in 1778.

When this new company first went into operation, the Hudson's Bay Company, with the characteristic inactivity of an ancient corporation guarded by charter, remained quietly at their posts, as the earlier French traders had done, and purchased such skins as the red man chose to bring them. The North-westerners, on the contrary, penetrated the forest, passed the mountain barriers, sailed over the lakes, alarmed the Indians by their vigor and force, (to their eternal shame be it said,) destroyed them by their supplies of spirits and fire arms; and for a considerable period might be almost considered as masters of the continent between the Rocky Mountains and the great lakes of Canada. The fur trade, conducted as these men conducted it, was necessarily a decaying trade. The traders and Indians were solicitous only for immediate gain, and careless of the future. They slaughtered indiscriminately, the male and the female, the full grown and the whelp, without even much regard for the season; and of course, the trade became much more destructive and much less productive every year. As fast as their original hunting grounds became exhausted, this company pushed their posts and trading parties to the westward. It was a consequence of this course of policy, that the two great expeditions of Sir Alexander Mackenzie were made.

Before entering upon these expeditions, we ought to remark, that about the year 1789, a trading party had passed westward to the *Shining Mountains*, as they were called by the Indians. Here they were driven back by a force of hostile Indians.\*

The Athabasca Lake is a basin thirteen miles in width, and two hundred miles in length, connected to the great Slave Lake by the Slave river, and supplied by the Peace river from the Rocky Mountains, and the Athabasca from the south. It is in latitude 59 deg. On its south-west end, Fort Chypewyan is situated.

From this fort Meekenzie started upon his first expedition in 1789. We regret that our space will not admit of our making liberal extracts from his journal. He was a man of fine intelligence, and of great vigor, courage and perseverance. He passed down the Slave river into the great Lake of that name, from the north-west extremity of which he found that a great river flowed, to which he gave his own name, which it bears to this day. To the mouth of this river he resolved to go. He accordingly entered the stream with his canoes, and in five days came to a camp of Slave and Dog-rib Indians. They asserted "that monsters of horrid shapes and malignant dispositions, had their abodes in the rocky caves on the banks, ready to devour whoever approached." Besides, they affirmed that it would take "several snows" to make the journey. One of them, however, was bribed to accompany him. Previous to his departure, a singular ceremony took place: "With great solemnity, he cut off a lock of his hair, and dividing it into three parts, fastened one to the upper part of his wife's head, blowing on it thrice with the utmost violence, and uttering certain words as a charm. The other two locks he attached,

\*Greenhow.

with the same ceremony to the heads of his children." These Indians are described as a "meagre, ugly, and ill favored race; particularly ill made in the legs." A few old men had beards, a circumstance not common with Indians. Their cheeks were tattooed with two double lines, and their noses pierced for a quill or bone. Their clothing in winter was gorgeous, consisting of skins and furs, dressed with the hair on, and richly embroidered with quills. These Indians had never seen any whites, and were destitute of metallic implements. On the 11th of July, they landed at a deserted encampment of the Esquimaux. They found three houses, "the ground plat of which were oval, about fifteen feet long, ten wide in the centre, and eight at each end; the whole was dug about twelve inches below the surface, one half being covered with willow branches, and probably forming the bed of the whole family." The whole structure was formed of drift-wood, willow and grass. Soon after he reached the mouth of the river, and beheld for the first time, the great Arctic Ocean, filled with mountains of ice, between which the whales were engaged in their sports. The next day he commenced his return, by the same route, and arrived at the fort after an absence of 102 days.

On the 2d day of October, 1792, Mackenzie set out upon his second journey. He launched his canoe upon Peace river. Her dimensions were twenty-five feet long within, exclusive of the curves of stem and stern, twenty-six inches hold, and four feet nine inches beam. She was so light that two men could carry her with ease. In this batteau he stowed 3,000 pounds of provisions, arms, &c., and found room also for himself, seven Europeans, and two Indians. "Under a serene sky, with a keen but healthy air, the barque glided through some beautiful scenery. On the west side of the river, the ground rose in a gently ascending lawn, broken at intervals by abrupt precipices, and extending in a rich woodland perspective, as far as the eye could reach. This magnificent amphitheatre presented groves of poplar in every direction, whose openings were enlivened with herds of elk and buffalos; the former choosing the steep and uplands, the latter preferring the plains.\* This river is broken by rapids and cascades, and they were compelled to make many laborious portages. The course of their journey led them through many populous beaver settlements. "In some places these animals had cut down several acres of large poplars; and they saw multitudes busy from sunrise to sunset, erecting houses, procuring food, superintending their dikes, and going diligently through all the labors of their little commonwealth." On the 10th June they met with some Indians. "These people were of low stature and meagre frame, round faces, high cheek bones, black hair, hanging in elf locks, and a swarthy yellow complexion; while their garments of beaver, reindeer, and ground-hog skins, dressed with the hair outside, having the tail of the hog hanging down the back, might occasion some doubt whether they belonged to the human race. Their women were extremely ugly, lustier and taller than the men, but much inferior in cleanliness. Their weapons were cedar bows, six feet long, with a short iron spike at one end. The arrows were

\* Tytler's Historical View of Discoveries, &c., page 133.

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barbed with iron, flint-stone, or bone. Their knives were of iron, worked by themselves. They used snares of green skin, nets and lines of willow bark, hooks of small bones, and kettles of watake, so closely woven as not to leak."\*

On the 16th June they reached the banks of the great river flowing westward, which was the object of so much anxious expectation and protracted hope. Embarking anew, it was not long ere the party were alarmed by a loud whoop from the woods, and at the same moment a single canoe shot out from the mouth of a small tributary, and a number of natives, armed with bows and arrows, appeared upon the bank. After a short time, he succeeded in assuaging their fears, and entered into communication with them. Their information was discouraging. They represented the distance to the "Stinking Lake," (as all Indians call the sea,) as immense, and the nations along the river as ferocious, malignant and treacherous. Unpalled by these representations, he again embarked. Shortly after, they concluded to finish their journey overland. For this labor they prepared. "We carried on our backs," says Mackenzie, "four bags and a half of pemmican,† weighing from 85 to 95 pounds each, a case with the instruments, a parcel of goods for presents, weighing ninety pounds, and a parcel containing ammunition, of the same weight; each of the Canadians had a burthen of about ninety pounds, with a gun and ammunition, while the Indians had about forty-five pounds of pemmican, besides their guns. My own load, and that of Mr. McKay, consisted of twenty-two pounds of pemmican, some rice, sugar, &c., amounting to about seventy pounds, besides arms and ammunition. The tube of my telescope was also thrown across my shoulders, and we determined to limit ourselves to two meals a day,"‡

Their first day's journey brought them to an Indian encampment, where they saw, to their great encouragement, a spear of white manufacture, which the Indian stated they had purchased of a tribe farther west, near the "Stinking Lake." At night these Indians took a station at a short distance from their place of rest, and "began a song in a sweet plaintive tone, with a modulation exceedingly sweet and pleasing, and solemn, not unlike that of church music." They again pursued their journey, sometimes coasting along the borders of beautiful lakes—sometimes ascending high eminences, from which they could discern, in the distance, a long range of high mountains, which the natives by whom they were traveling, represented as terminating in the sea. In this part of their journey they beheld the richest scenery. Beautiful valleys watered by gentle rivulets, and adorned with umbrageous trees, were succeeded by ranges of hills capped

\* Tytler's History.

† This is buffalo meat dried and pounded, to which is sometimes added marrow-grease and fruit. It has been used time out of mind by the voyageurs, and it has always been purchased by travelers and men of science, for their support in their journeys. It is an Indian dish, no doubt, and this is the name given to it by the Chippewyans and Crees. The French call it *taureau*, and the Siouxs *pantigion*. All the Indians in the buffalo regions make it always, adding cherries or other fruits, together with marrow-grease.

‡ Mackenzie's Travels, page 285.

with snow, whilst far back in the perspective rose a stupendous line of peaks, whose summits were crowned with the same spotless coronet, and partly lost in the masses of heavy and rolling clouds. The effect of sunrise or sunset must have been strikingly beautiful. How rich the contrast of brilliant light and dark shadows, of leaping cascades and quiet lakes, of cold icy peaks and deep green valleys!

After some days they at last came upon an Indian village. This was a village situated only about forty-five miles from the coast, and the inhabitants essentially differed from those east of the mountains in manners, habits, buildings, &c. The houses were constructed of wood. At a little distance, Mackenzie noticed some singular wooden buildings, which he imagined to be temples. They were oblong squares, about twenty feet high, and eight broad, formed of thick cedar planks, beautifully joined. Upon these were painted hieroglyphics and animals, executed with extraordinary accuracy. In the midst of the village was another strange building. The ground plot of it was fifty feet by forty-five. At each end were four posts fixed perpendicularly in the earth. These posts were unornamented, but they supported a beam of the whole length, with three intermediate props. Two centre posts at each end were carved into colossal human figures, supporting on their heads ridge poles. The hands were placed on the knees. Opposite to them were figures with their hands resting upon their hips. All these figures were painted red and black, and the sculpture manifested no little skill and accuracy in the execution. In the mechanical arts, also, they had progressed considerably. The canoe of the chief was of cedar, forty-five feet long, four wide, and three and a half deep. It was painted black, and decorated with white figures of fish. The gunwale, fore and aft, was inlaid with the teeth of the sea otter.

On the 20th of July, they beheld, for the first time, the broad expanse of the Pacific Ocean. The object of their journey was now accomplished. On the white surface of a rock which, from a height of several hundred feet, looked over the great ocean, Mackenzie painted with vermilion the following inscription: "Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by land, the 22d of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three." Time has probably obliterated this inscription; but its assaults are made in vain upon the fame acquired by this indefatigable and daring discoverer.

This great western river is the one which has received the name of Frazer. On the 24th of August following, Mackenzie reached the fort at the Athabasca Lake.

Whilst Mackenzie was pursuing his journey to the Pacific, Mr Fidler, a clerk of the Northwest Company, stationed at Fort Buckingham, on the Saskatchewan river, made a trip southwestward, to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. He seems to have traveled over the region watered by the head of the Missouri. He was so incompetent to the task confided to him, that the accounts he gave do not correspond with the descriptions of Lewis and Clark, and the world has learned nothing from his journey, save the fact of its having been made.

The expeditions of Pike, and of Lewis and Clark, excited the jealousy of a wild

ousy of the British fur traders. Pike had restrained their incursions upon the territory watered by the head of the Mississippi, and had shaken their influence over the Indians there. The movements of Lewis and Clark were vigilantly watched by these traders, and when they discovered their destination, immediate preparations were made to anticipate the Americans in the settlement of the Oregon territory. In furtherance of this project, a party was despatched by the Northwest Company, in 1805, under the command of Mr. Laroque, to establish posts and occupy territories upon the Columbia. This party, however, did not succeed in penetrating beyond the Mandan Village, on the Missouri. In the following year, (1806,) another expedition was entrusted to Mr. Simon Frazer. He started from Fort Chipewyan on the Athabasca Lake, crossed the mountains near the source of Peace river, and founded a trading post on a small lake, now called by his name, situated in the 54th degree of latitude. *This was the first settlement, of any kind, made by British subjects, west of the Rocky Mountains.* It is from him that the river discovered by Mackenzie derives its name. Other posts were subsequently founded in various parts of the country extending south to Fort Hall, and southwest to the mouth of the Columbia river, which, on the extinction of this company, became the property of the Hudson's Bay Company. The latter never founded any posts west of the mountains, previous to that period.

The repeated intrusions of the Northwest Company upon the territories claimed by that of the Hudson's Bay, induced the latter to attempt to imitate the policy of the former, lest it should be outstripped in the race for profit. They accordingly commenced establishing posts in various parts of the interior; and very soon, as might have been anticipated, their differences were aggravated into open hostility. They were all far beyond the authority of law, and an injunction in such a country would have had about as much force, and been treated with as much respect, as a ukase of the Emperor of Russia in the United States. Feeling themselves physically incompetent to self-defence, the Bay Company, for the first time, exercised their right as proprietors, to introduce a colony of civilized men into their territories. In the year 1812, they disposed of a considerable tract of land on the southern shore of Lake Winnipeg, watered by the Red river, one of its tributaries, to Lord Selkirk, a Scottish nobleman, who commenced planting there the germ of a new colony, by granting to individuals and families small tracts of land, (according to the English method,) reserving to himself a certain but moderate annual rent in perpetuity. It so happened that the very spot selected for this colony was the one at which the Northwest Company were in the habit of making all the pemmican necessary to supply the voyageurs thence to Athabasca, and over the mountains. The settlement would, of course, drive the buffalo away, and thus produce inconvenience to them. This was the true reason why they determined to trespass upon the lands of the rival company, violate the legal rights of Selkirk, and murder the unoffending men who had moved themselves and families from the home of their ancestors, to seek prosperity and happiness in a wild and unknown land. For several years previously, matters

had progressed to such a point of exacerbation between the two companies, that the Northwesters, with the unscrupulous ferocity which such a life as they led among the Indians inevitably produces, even in men of the best early training and education, had waged a vengeful and unsparing partisan war against the posts of the rival company. Sometimes they contented themselves with driving away their inhabitants; at others they cut off their means of support; again they would lie in ambush, and murder them in their routes; and finally, in the year 1814, they organized a powerful expedition against the Red River Settlement, which, after a war of two years, characterized by circumstances of barbarity and scoundrelism, which rivalled or surpassed that of their Indian allies and friends, the war was terminated by the cruel massacre of Mr. Semple, the governor of the colony, with all his intimate companions, and a total expulsion of all the survivors.

This is a brief outline of a course of conduct so lawless, so bloody, so ferocious, and so utterly unprincipled, that we marvel how the imagination of Mr. Irving could so far delude his judgment as to induce him to speak of such men and such atrocities, in language applicable only to deeds of heroism performed for noble ends. It is provoking to have the murders and robberies of a gang of outlaws, whose lives were scarce redeemed by one virtuous trait, and whose acts, if perpetrated within any civilized community under the sun, would have elevated them to the gibbet a thousand times over—celebrated by stooping genius as deeds worthy to be compared to the sublimest age of chivalry, when—if the ends were wrong—they were at least deemed by their pursuers, and the world, the noblest to which heroic valor could devote itself. The fact only shows, (if proof were needed,) that individuals of high genius and brilliant imagination may be totally blinded by the very excess of light; and that it is thus possible to sympathise deeply and sincerely with the guilty actors in the most atrocious deeds, and at the same time wholly overlook the suffering and the bloodshed of their innocent and unoffending victims.

This crowning outrage of the Northwest Company rendered it perfectly obvious that this contest between the two companies must result in the entire ruin of one or both of them. Their differences were brought before the British Parliament in June, 1819, and a debate ensued, in the course of which the conduct of the parties was minutely investigated. The Ministry then interposed its mediation and a compromise was at length effected, by which the Northwest Company was merged in that of the Hudson's Bay. At the same time, and in connection with this arrangement, an act "for regulating the fur trade and establishing a criminal and civil jurisdiction in certain parts of North America," was passed, containing every thing requisite to give stability and efficiency to the Bay Company. The contract between the two companies was signed in London in March, 1821.

Under the provisions of the above mentioned act, the King granted to the "Governor, and company of Adventurers, trading to Hudson's Bay, and to a number of persons representing the Northwest Company, the exclusive privilege of trading for twenty-one years, in all

the territories of Great Britain in North America, except such as are now formed into British Provinces." This grant was renewed in 1842, with some new provisions, chiefly respecting the treatment of the Indian tribes.

It is to be observed, that this charter has nothing to do with the immense region comprised in the original charter of 1670. Within that district they are lords of the soil. The heirs of Lord Selkirk having retroceded to them the title to the lands upon Red river, in 1836, they have replanted the colony originally founded by him. In that remote little colony, so many hundreds of miles beyond the remotest bounds of civilization, without good water communication to connect them with it, and consequently, as we should deem, destitute of the ordinary comforts of life, there are at this time about 5,000 persons,\* the largest portion of whom are *Bois Brule*, (or half breeds) the remainder of them Scotch or from the Scottish Isles. But in our conjecture as to their destitution, we should be found upon examination, greatly mistaken. They have a Roman Catholic Bishop, a cathedral, and seven or eight other religious ministers. The company sell their land at 12s. 6d. per acre, and the plantations extend for fifty miles along the river. They cultivate wheat, barley, maize, and a variety of garden vegetables. Their farms are well supplied with stock, and they purchase their dry goods and groceries by exchanging the produce of their farms with the company's posts, or, (as we have seen them do,) carrying their products a cart journey of fourteen days to Fort Mandan. And recently, they have united their means, and sent an agent to St. Louis, who there purchases supplies for them—sends them up the Mississippi, by steam, as high as the head of steam navigation, where they are transferred to *pirogues*, and finally taken across to Red river in carts. We are afraid that the worthy bishop inflicts slight penance upon them, for the half breeds are said to be the fiercest warriors of the plains; and so late as the summer of 1845, a company of dragoons, commanded by Capt. Sumner, were sent to check their inroads upon the hunting grounds of the Sioux, and we believe they are still troublesome near the border.

Mr. Irving has dilated upon the feudal state of Fort William—its splendid hospitality—the lordly grandeur of its defences—the gorgeous display of its wealth and magnificence—its bountiful banquets, at which the wines of southern Europe gave zest to the game of the forest—and many "an auld world ditty" was sung to stimulate the boisterous mirth of its guests and inmates. But he has forgotten to add to this poetical enumeration of its faded glories, that at this same Fort William, situated near the head of Lake Superior, such a congregation of ruffians, bandits, and scoundrels was assembled as the world has not seen since the days when rape, robbery, and murder were the chief occupations of the inhabitants of feudal castles, and their bastions and parapets bristled with the swords and spears of all who were most base and brutal among mankind; that the tongues which chaunted with so much feeling the glorious songs of "bra' Robin Eurns," were daily employed in instructing the ferocious and sanguinary sav-

\* Simpson's Travels, chapter 8.

age how to murder and mutilate their fellow-beings—subjects of the same king—for no offence under Heaven but that of defending rights legally acquired and honestly exercised; that every drop of wine swallowed in these festivities was purchased at the cost of as much Christian blood shed by them in defiance of all law, human and divine; and that every dish upon the bounteous board cost the life of an Indian, deluded, debauched, stimulated, and finally sacrificed by them for the furtherance of objects the most mean and selfish, and the gratification of a malignity which could have had its birth-place nowhere but in the councils of a band of fiends and outlaws.

Mr. Ross Cox, who was a clerk employed by the Northwest Company, has given some accounts of these transactions, but as his narrative bears upon its face the marks of falsehood, as well as those denoting a total want of all proper feeling and all sound principle, we shall here add one or two anecdotes derived from, not a party concerned, but an innocent settler in Selkirk's Settlement, whom we met with at Fort Mandan, touching these atrocities.

Soon after the purchase by Lord Selkirk of the tract of land upon Red river, he discovered that his objects, laudable and legal as they were, were likely to be frustrated by the Northwest Company; and for this reason he purchased two hundred shares and became one of the proprietors in the Hudson's Bay Company, that by thus uniting their interests, his infant colony might have the protection of this ancient and powerful corporation. It was principally because of this connection that the direct war upon it was marked by such unprincipled and atrocious conduct.

It is not true, as Cox states, that when the final struggle occurred at Red river, it was brought about by fourteen of the *Bois Brule* (or half-breeds) who accompanied a party of carts and horses with provisions &c., in violation of the orders of M'Donnell, stationed at Q'Appelle river; nor is it true that the first order to fire was given by Mr. Semple, the governor of the colony. The facts are precisely the reverse of all this. It was an expedition gotten up by the partners of the Northwest Company, consisting principally of half-breeds, who are fully as much, or more ferocious than the natives, for the express purpose of crushing this settlement; and the force greatly outnumbered those employed in the defence. They did enter the settlement in violation of law—they did attack the settlers with a brutal fury known only to such beings—and they did crush the colony—murdering all its chief men, some of the women, and a number of children; burning their houses and devastating their fields, and levying by way of *black mail*, upon all its live stock.

A Mr. Clark, who had originally belonged to the Northwest Company, but who was tempted by better pay, as all of them might have been, to desert those who had some claims upon his gratitude, was placed in charge of the post at Athabasca. Here he was regularly besieged by his old friends. After living some time upon *pemmican* and horse flesh, he was reduced first to *wild rice*,\* of which he had

\* Wild rice is found in the greatest quantities on Wild Rice river, a small tributary of the Red river, in the territory of Iowa, but it is scattered along all the streams near the parallel. It is in much esteem with the Sioux and other Indians.

carried a small quantity with him. At last, his rice gave out, and he was reduced to *tripe de rocher*.\* Finally, even this resource failed, and after inhumanly suffering many of his men to die of absolute starvation, he was compelled to surrender the post with all its furs and other property. Such proceedings as these forced their opponents to like conduct in self-defence, and for several years the different bands of Indians were hired to perpetrate indiscriminate slaughter.

Thirty or forty miles northwest of Fort William, is situated the great fall of the *Portage de la Montagne*. This tremendous cataract surpasses every other in the world, save only that at Niagara. The river for a few miles above moves with a slow and calm current. When its waters arrive at this immense terrace of rock, which is fully two hundred feet in width, they are precipitated in one broad, unbroken sheet a distance of one hundred and sixty feet. For many miles the hoarse roaring of the falling waters may be heard like the heavy roll of distant thunder; and when an unclouded sun pours its beams upon the scene, prismatic rainbows flash in innumerable curves over and around them.

In the year 1815, a party consisting of some twenty men, with six canoes, in the employment of the Bay Company, were descending through that long chain of small lakes and straits which so nearly unite the waters of the Atlantic to those of the Arctic Seas. When they had arrived at the usual place of landing, for the purpose of making the portage around this great fall, they turned the bows of their boats landward, singing the while one of those beautiful and affecting songs with which these hardy and adventurous *voyageurs* were wont to beguile the time, and relieve the fatigue of their laborious way. But they found themselves suddenly set upon by a band of half breeds, under the command of white men, who had lain in ambush on both sides of the river, immediately above the falls. The struggle was fierce, bloody, and unsparing, for the canoe men were fighting for a foothold, to save them from being precipitated over the falls, and their opponents were ruthlessly determined that no living being should plant his foot upon the soil. Two of the canoes succeeded in reaching the shore, and their inmates sprung to the land, with knife and pistol in hand; but one minute sufficed for their destruction. The other four canoes were kept out by the firing and the poles of the half breeds, until the curving current struck them; and then all parties were well aware that further struggle was vain. The half breeds ran yelling with delight to the very edge of the cataract, to witness the result. The canoe men sullenly folded their arms and seated themselves in silence to await their fate. Ah! who shall say what millions of thoughts rushed through their minds in those few fearful moments? The history of their whole lives was, no doubt, spread out in one broad picture, and they commended themselves to the protecting care of their patron saints, and of the Virgin. The

\* *Tripe de Rocher* is a species of lichen (or moss) much used by the Indians and voyageurs. It is prepared by boiling, is not very palatable, but a good resource when threatened with starvation. Of the lichens used as food there are four varieties, viz: *Gyrophora Protopsidea*, *Gyr. Hyperborea*, and *Gyr. Mechlenbergia*. All of them are used as food, but the Indians reject all but the last.

a small tributary of the streams near the

canoes leaped forward, whirled over and around in their descent, scattering the *voyageurs* in every direction; and in another instant the majestic waters resumed their aspect of stern and solemn grandeur.

## ART VI.—EDUCATION—NO. V.

BY JOS. ORMROD, ESQ.

### INTELLECTUAL DISCIPLINE OF SCHOOLS—*continued.*

MISS EDGEWORTH, a lady who has done more for the cause of education, by her various publications, in disseminating correct views on the subject, than perhaps any other writer, concludes some observations on intellectual training, as follows :

“ We do not mean to promise, that a boy judiciously educated, shall appear, at ten years old, a prodigy of learning ; far from it : we should not even estimate his capacity, or the chain of his future progress, by the quantity of knowledge stored in his memory, by the number of Latin lines he has got by rote, by his expertness in repeating the rules of his grammar, by his pointing out a number of places readily in a map, or even by his knowing the latitude and longitude of all the capital cities in Europe ; these are all useful articles of knowledge ; but they are not the test of a good education.

“ We should rather, if we were to examine a boy of ten years old, for the credit of his parents, produce proofs of his being able to reason accurately, of his quickness in invention, of his habits of industry and application, of his having learned to generalize his ideas, and to apply his observations and his principles : if we found that he had learned all or any of these things, we should be in little pain about grammar or geography, or even Latin ; we should be tolerably certain that he would not long remain deficient in any of these ; we should know that he would overtake and surpass a competitor who had only been technically taught, as certainly as the giant would overtake the panting dwarf, who might have many miles the start of him in the race.

“ We do not mean to say that a boy should not be taught the principles of grammar, and some knowledge of geography, at the same time that his understanding is cultivated in the most enlarged manner ; these objects are not incompatible ; and we particularly recommend it to *parents who intend to send their children to school*, early to give them confidence in themselves by securing the rudiments of literary education ; otherwise their pupils, with a real superiority of understanding, may feel depressed, and may, perhaps, be despised.

